

MARVEL
MK

9



HUDLIN
YARDIN
LEISTEN
WHITE

BLACK PANTHER

WILD
KINGDOM
4 of 4

MARVEL

RATED T+



\$2.99 US \$4.25 CAN

DIRECT EDITION

WITB
2005

BLACK PANTHER



PREVIOUSLY

There are some places you just don't mess with. Wakanda is one of them. Since the dawn of time, that African warrior nation has been sending would-be conquerors home in body bags. While the rest of Africa got carved up like a Christmas turkey by the rest of the world, Wakanda's cultural evolution has gone unchecked for centuries, unfettered by the yoke of colonization. The result: A hi-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise that makes the rest of the world seem primitive by comparison.

Ruling over all this is T'Challa, the heir to the centuries-old warrior cult that's served as Wakanda's religious, political and military head since its inception: The Black Panther. Anyone who'd dare to make a move on Wakanda must go through him.

Wakanda's neighboring country, Niganda, has fallen into chaos after the ousting of its corrupt leader. In this vacuum many of the nation's unsavory secrets have begun to boil to the surface including the bizarre animal/mutant splicing experiments of the mad scientist, Dr. Paine. Reports of Paine's freakish creations bring the X-Men to Africa and in league with the Black Panther. Meanwhile, Dr. Paine's uneasy relationship with communist Red Ghost and his Super Apes dissolves, leaving Paine to seek T'Challa and the X-Men's aid. Problems mount as the Apes hatch their own plan to release a human-killing virus upon Africa...

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UGANDA, AFRICA.



WHAT'S GOING ON?
ANOTHER HUNT
FOR TRAITORS?

NO...A
MIRACLE HAS
HAPPENED.

THE
GODDESS
HAS RETURNED.
SHE BLESSED
THAT GIRL IN
THE FRONT OF
THE LINE!



WHAT
GODDESS?

ORORO,
THE STORM
GODDESS OF
THE DESERT!

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOU, DON'T YOU
HAVE A TV? THAT
GIRL IS FROM
THE AMERICAN
X-MEN--



BLASPHEMER!!!



NO!
NO!
WAAAAH!!!



MEANWHILE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT PSYCHO CREEP, DR. PAINE--LIKE THAT'S HIS REAL NAME-- IS PLAYING US LIKE THIS! WE'RE THE X-MEN! WHY ARE WE DOING HIS DIRTY WORK?

WITH PAINE MIMICKING ALL OF OUR POWERS, THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT WE COULD FREE LORNA BEFORE SHE WAS POISONED BY THE VENOM.

I'M ICEMAN! I COULD HAVE FROZEN THE STUFF SOLID BEFORE IT DRIPPED INTO HER VEINS.

AND IF YOU WERE WRONG, AND HE WAS PREPARED FOR THAT?



DIS ISN'T GOING TO DEVOLVE INTO ONE OF THOSE "WHO CARES MORE" ARGUMENTS, IS IT? BECAUSE I HATE THOSE.

AGREED.

ME THREE. AH'M CHECKING THE UPPER FLOORS.



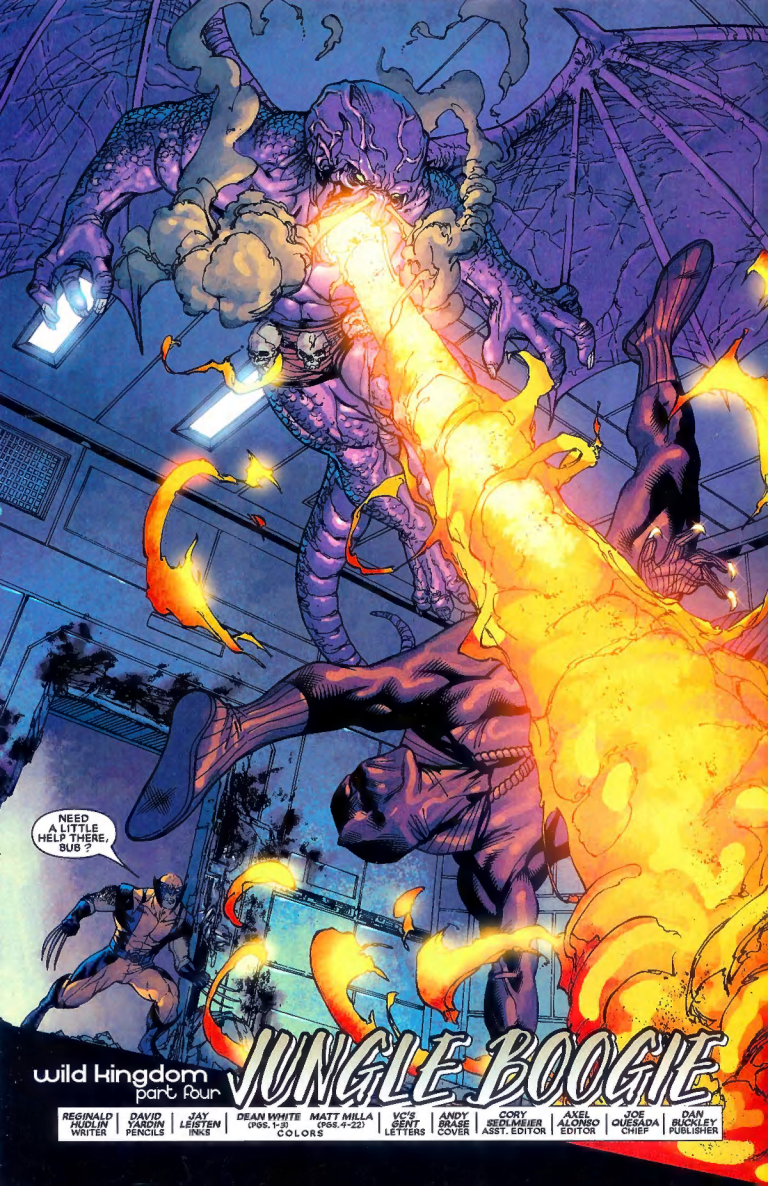
COULD BE WORSE, DRAKE. AT LEAST THEY'RE GUNNING FOR A BAD GUY.

AND THAT'S ANOTHER THING. THIS IS A BIG PLANT. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND HIM?



MICKHLO...? PEOTOR...? WHERE ARE YOU...?





NEED
A LITTLE
HELP THERE,
SUB?

wild kingdom
part four

JUNGLE BOOGIE

REGINALD
HUDLIN
WRITER

DAVID
YARDIN
PENCILS

JAY
LEISTEN
INKS

DEAN WHITE
(PGS. 1-3)
COLORS

MATT MILLA
(PGS. 4-22)

VC'S
BENT
LETTERS

ANDY
BRASE
COVER

CORY
SEDLMEIER
ASST. EDITOR

AXEL
ALONSO
EDITOR

JOE
QUESADA
CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER



I'VE--
UNFH--GOT
UNDER
CONTROL...



YOU
COULD TAKE
OUT THAT
SECURITY
CAMERA--

TOO
LATE. HE
DID IT FOR
ME.



A FIRE EXTINGUISHER
MIGHT BE A GOOD
IDEA...



ALREADY
COVERED. I
CAN BE MORE
USEFUL THAN
THAT!



FIRST,
LET ME
GET A GOOD
GRIP ON THAT
SLIPPERY
TAIL...



SMASH

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING!?

A comic book panel showing Wolverine in his blue and orange suit, crouched on the back of a large, purple, scaly dragon. The dragon is breathing fire. Wolverine is looking back over his shoulder. In the background, a figure in a black cape (Batman) is visible. The scene is set in a city with buildings and rain falling.

IT'S NOT
WHAT I DID,
IT'S WHAT I'M
GONNA DO!

WAIT!
THERE'S NO
NEED! I CAN
TAME HIM!

A close-up comic book panel of Wolverine's face and the dragon's head. Wolverine is growling, showing his teeth. The dragon is also growling, with its mouth open, showing sharp teeth and a glowing yellow light. The background is dark and rainy.

LOOK, I GET THAT YOU'RE
"LORD OF THE JUNGLE" AND
ALL THAT, BUT THIS POOR
BEAST HAS HAD EVERY
AGREEABLE ASPECT BRED
OUT OF HIM THROUGH WHO
KNOWS HOW MUCH GENETIC
TINKERIN'. IT'S GONNA TAKE
MORE THAN A ROLLED-
UP NEWSPAPER
TO--

A comic book panel showing Wolverine on the dragon's back. The dragon is breathing fire. Wolverine is looking back over his shoulder. In the background, a figure in a black cape (Batman) is visible. The scene is set in a city with buildings and rain falling.

~AKKK~ GOOD
DOGGIE.

A comic book panel showing the dragon breathing fire. The dragon is breathing fire. The scene is set in a city with buildings and rain falling.

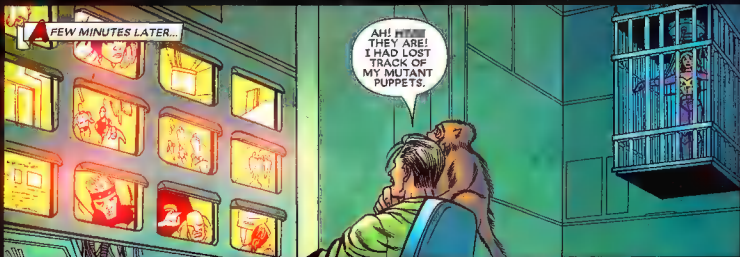
THE
OLD WHACK-
ON-THE-SNOUT?!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT
WORKED!

A comic book panel showing Wolverine and Batman. Wolverine is on the dragon's back. Batman is on the ground. The scene is set in a city with buildings and rain falling.

IT'S
IMPORTANT
NOT TO
OVERTHINK
THINGS.







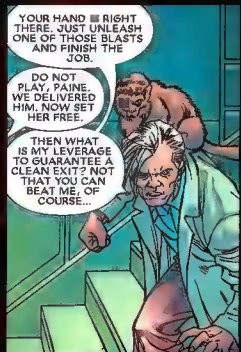
FEW MINUTES LATER...

AH! HELL! THEY ARE! I HAD LOST TRACK OF MY MUTANT PUPPETS.



SHOOM

OKAY, PAINE, HERE'S YOUR DELINQUENT ACCOUNT. NOW LORNA!



YOUR HAND IS RIGHT THERE. JUST UNLEASH ONE OF THOSE BLASTS AND FINISH THE JOB.

DO NOT PLAY, PAINE. WE DELIVERED HIM. NOW SET HER FREE.

THEN WHAT IS MY LEVERAGE TO GUARANTEE A CLEAN EXIT? NOT THAT YOU CAN BEAT ME, OF COURSE...



I'M GIVING YOU A FIVE-COUNT. S...4...

W-WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? STAY PUT! I'LL KILL HER!



...3...2...

SURE YOU WILL... BUT WE WILL ALSO KILL YOU. DON'T DOUBT IT.

HUH... X-MEN? I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO... TO...



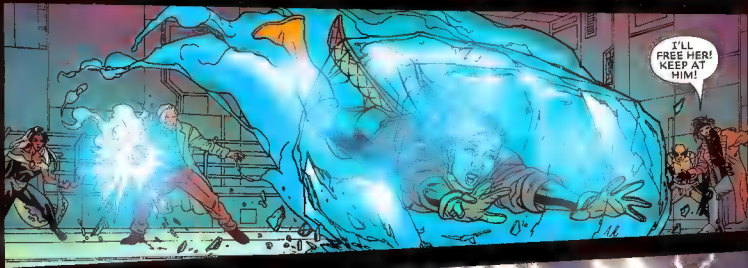
BACK OFF!!!



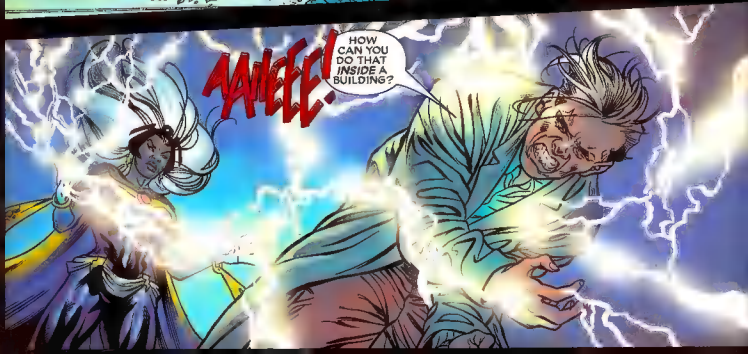
BAD TACTICS, PAINE. SHOULD HAVE STUCK TO LAB WORK.



NOW WHO'S GOT THE BAD TACTICS?

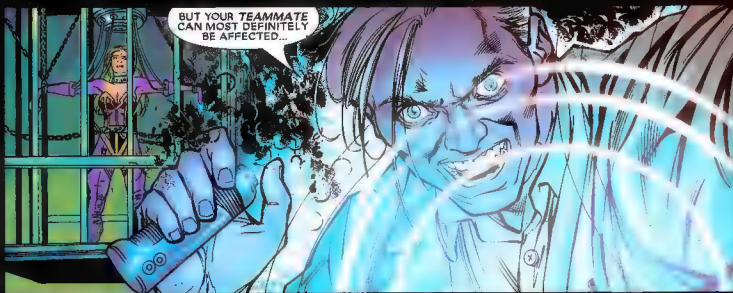
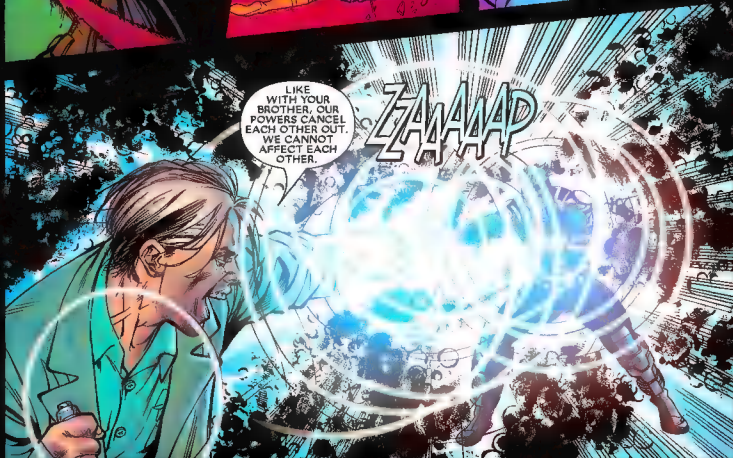
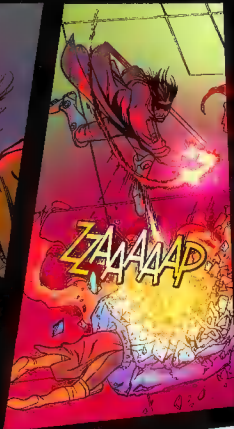


I'LL FREE HER! KEEP AT HIM!

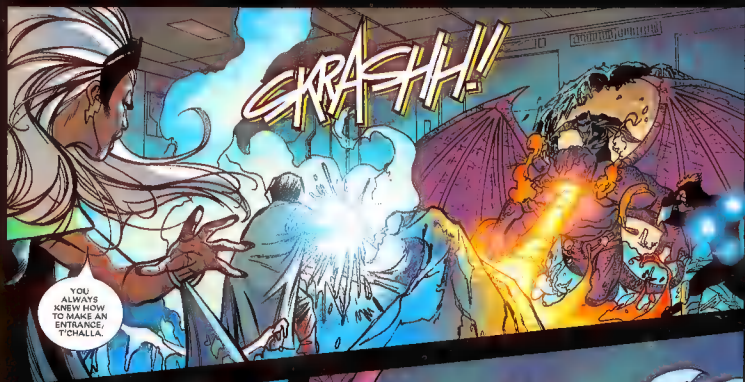


WHEEE!

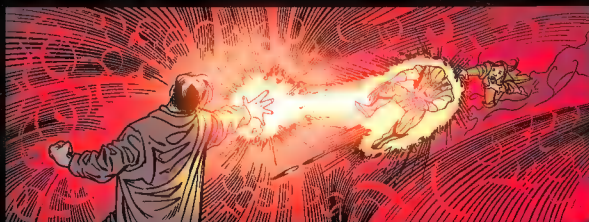
HOW CAN YOU DO THAT INSIDE A BUILDING?











SPLAT





YOU KNOW, THIS MAKES FOR INTERESTING CAREER OPTIONS. SHOULD I CONTINUE TO BE A "MAD SCIENTIST FOR HIRE?" OR STRIKE OUT ON MY OWN AS AN "ABOVE-THE-TITLE" SUPER-VILLAIN?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE COMFORTABLE IN THE BACKGROUND, BUT PERHAPS THIS IS MY TIME TO--

URRK!



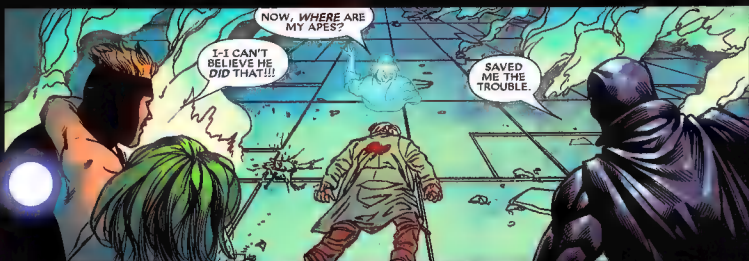
YOU SUPER HEROES ARE TOO SOFT TO FINISH THE JOB. RED GHOST HAS NO PATIENCE FOR CONNIVING CAPITALISTS.



NOW, WHERE ARE MY APES?

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DID THAT!!!

SAVED ME THE TROUBLE.









WHAT IS THAT?

NOTHING OF YOUR BUSINESS, COMRADE.



NONE OF MY--

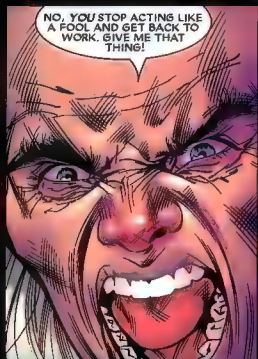
THAT'S IT! WHATEVER CONDITIONING PAINÉ DID IS CLEARLY WORTHLESS. YOU ARE THE MOST ILL-BEHAVED APES I'VE EVER WORKED WITH!

THE CIRCUS ACT IS OVER, GHOST. THE "APE AGE" IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!



"APE AGE"? HA-HA-HA-HA!!!

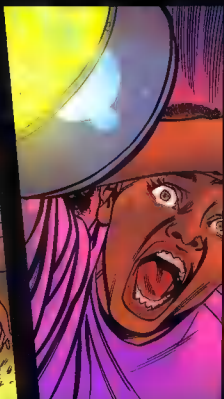
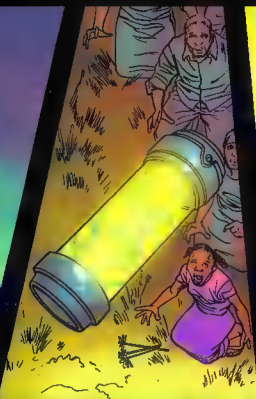
STOP LAUGHING AT US!



NO, YOU STOP ACTING LIKE A FOOL AND GET BACK TO WORK. GIVE ME THAT THING!



YOU ASKED FOR IT!









THE END.

MAIL TO THE KING!

Hey Pantherphiles,

We received a deluge of mail for our House of M issue. Not to cut short on the love, but we're going to keep it brief to squeeze in as many of your letters as possible.

—Cory

Dear Marvel Comics, (especially the editors and the BLACK PANTHER staff):

I want to congratulate you all at Marvel Comics for giving us the opportunity to read, month after month, this awesome, multi-dimensional, high-quality and unique comic called BLACK PANTHER, courtesy of Reggie, John and Co. You are demonstrating that you are a censorship-free cultural/artistic publishing house.

We are all living in days of global uncertainty and senseless violence. In this context, it's easy for some people to try to explain the delicate world situation by dividing people into good or evil, patriots or traitors, democracy-defenders or terrorists, and so on. I think it is too easy for a lot of people to say that BLACK PANTHER is a fictional tale criticizing the U.S. government, its administration and international politics.

I presume it would be easier for Marvel Comics to keep this "uncomfortable character" out of circulation because you have A LOT of other successful titles, and economically, for your interest, it would make no major difference.

So let me congratulate you all again for your editorial maturity, for your defense of democracy, diversity, freedom of speech and ideas, and for bringing us month after month, year after year, the best comics ever.

Sincerely,
Veronica Rodriguez

V., we love ya. Tell your friends—you keep reading, we'll keep publishing.

Cats,

I was really disappointed when it was decided that the Priest-helmed BLACK PANTHER series was to end. Panther is one of my favorite characters and Priest's run gave him the feel of regality in the Marvel Universe. He was not just a black hero, but a brilliant man, regal king and a much more complex man.

I have to admit, I wasn't overly impressed with BP #1-6. JRJR was his usual solid self (with help from Klaus, natch), but the story was eh.

Now, I have to tell you that #7 was awesome! Reggie handled the monarch of the House of M universe brilliantly!

I was also impressed by how Trevor's work has elevated since his Ultimate series.

Keep up the good work!
All About Me

Glad you liked Trev's effort on "Soul Power in the HOM." A big thanks goes out from us all to John Dell for his spectacular inking job on the issue!

Mr. Hudlin,

I just finished reading the "House of M" issue of BLACK PANTHER and unfortunately I have to say that I was very disappointed. It's funny that this book is often criticized for not being enough like Priest's run on the title, yet in this issue you seem to have made the exact same mistake Priest made in his run—making T'Challa a guest star in his own book. The exception being that instead of "the coolest black character in Marvel as told by some white guy," we got an issue of

X-MEN guest-starring the Black Panther.

I'm willing to put this criticism aside, however, because it is a House of M crossover, so the mutants should figure in heavily (even though neither Spider-Man nor the Hulk seemed like guest stars in their own books during House of M). But I really have to question some of the choices that were made in this issue. What did T'Challa fooling around with lots of different women have to do with anything? I understand that during this little crossover the heroes are alternate versions of themselves but in the other HOM books we at least got explanations for why the characters were different. In this one we just have Panther acting completely out of character for no apparent reason. "You got me straight trippin' boo?" No grown man could say that seriously with a straight face and certainly not a well-educated ruler of an international super-power.

I know that sometimes writers feel like these intra-company crossovers are forced down their throats and therefore don't necessarily put their best foot forward. I hope this is the case with this issue and is not the beginning of a trend because the book has been excellent so far and I hope issue #8 finds us back with the intellectual warrior you've been crafting so far.

Rob Hendricks

What can we say, Rob? "What might be right for you, may not be right for some." Different strokes for different folks. As for politics and intrigue, expect plenty of it in the future of BLACK PANTHER.

Heyyyyyyy,

The BLACK PANTHER #7 ("Soul Power in the House Of M") was AWESOME. He really is an Amazing character. I did enjoy very much seeing King T'Challa get all the royal Rulers to unite. It was good seeing Storm, Namor, Black Bolt and Sunfire all work together.

After all this is over and the Marvel Universe is put back together, I do hope to see a few events stay the same. Don't put Marvel Universe reality 100% back together. If possible, how about 90% is returned back to normal leaving 10% a little out of whack to spice up for future Marvel Universe storylines?

As for some remarks I read in the letter page that the Black Panther wouldn't be a match against Sabretooth if it was in the real Marvel Universe. BOY! You don't know that, just because a character is a mutant doesn't make him unbeatable. PLEASE! The Black Panther is truly a dynamite super hero. He can hold his own with anyone. I would love to see a rematch sometime in the future.

Again, I really believe that the Black Panther and Storm make a really great couple. They seem so right for each other. I would like very much to see this romance continue as well. I just can't see Storm with Nightcrawler or Wolverine or even Bishop. Their romance could be done really well, and both have duties outside their relationship. So please think about it!

It would be interesting as well to see Storm in the Black Panther book from time to time as a regular supporting character when her duties to the X-Men are dealt with. The same goes for T'Challa; he could appear as well in the X-Men from time to time as Storm's love interest.

The right writer can make it happen. I never liked Monica Lynne as a love interest for

T'Challa. She is so BORING!

I would like to see the return of The Champions as a team again. Maybe you guys could do a maxi-series with them. Who knows? If you get the right writers, your fans may scream and plead for them to be a regular monthly book after that. My vote is to see team members of the Champions as possibly a few of these characters: Hercules, the Black Widow, the Black Panther, Pixie, Elektra, Sunfire, Sting-Ray, and Venus (the Goddess of Love, who could be trained as a combat warrior woman).

Jason

How's this issue work for you for a Storm/Black Panther love interest, Jason? Plan on seeing Monica Lynne in the near future, and check out the whopping finale to HOUSE OF M this month for the answer to all your HOM questions.

Mr. Hudlin,

I wanted to say I regret missing the past issues of BLACK PANTHER because of the soundtrack contest. Whether I won or not, I would have enjoyed participating. What a great way to get fans to react! I don't have a top ten list, but "Quilombo" or "Umbabaramba" by Souly would have been good songs for BLACK PANTHER. Both songs tell the story of African heroes, while the music is real heavy and staccato...good for @\$\$-kicking.

Anyway, I enjoyed that letter column, and the apparently fake House of M one.

Keep up the good work!
Pete Ambrose

Fake letter column?



NEXT ISSUE:

THE FOUNDATION FOR
THE BIGGEST EVENT
IN PANTHER HISTORY
BEGINS HERE!
GUEST STARRING LUKE
CAGE!

CORY SEDLMEIER
ASST. EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

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